

THE RISING PHOENIX... ONE YEAR LATER.



QATAR ITRINS

TALOSSA'S PREMIER
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ONE YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC!
WHERE TO FROM HERE?

"Let A Hundred Schools Of Thought Contend!"

Damn. If you'd told me two years ago - let alone seven - that in 2005 I would be the elected Prime Minister of a Talossan Republic, serving alongside President Chris Gruber, I would have only stopped laughing long enough to check your pupils for the tell-tale dilation of the serious drug addict. And yet, here we are.

We have begun a tradition in this Republic - which I think is a good one - that once a year, on our Independence Day (June 1), the doors of our Parlamînt are thrown open so that all citizens may enter and speak their mind. I didn't participate this year due to frantic business in other aspects of my life. So in this editorial I'll take my chance to address the nation - not in my official capacity as its Prime Minister, but as a private citizen, who just happens to run a newspaper, stringing together some random thoughts.

Could it be, for a start, that seven seats is too big for a legislative chamber of a Republic our size? It's certainly good that there was real competition for seats in the Chamber election - even that deserving candidates such as Gjermund Higrapp or Andy Lowry missed out. Because if everyone competent was in government, then elections would be a sham. If our legislature continues to work well with only four consistently active Deputies, should the size of the Chamber be decreased to five next time? It's worth discussing.

Another thing worth discussing is why almost all the lesser-active citizens of the Republic threw their lot in, in both Presidential and Chamber elections, with Michael Pope's Guelph party. This "silent faction" nearly took both elections away from the PSD/FP favourites - to the surprise of everyone, not least the Guelphs. Again, a good thing. It proves that Republic democracy is far from the predictable farce that passed for electoral politics in the Kingdom. The leaders can be beaten - and maybe will be next time.

When Mao Zedong said "let a hundred schools of thought contend" in China in the late 1950's, the resultant brief flowering of free speech was quickly neutralised by the Stalinist power structure. Hopefully, we elected leaders of the Republic are not such hypocrites. Of course, the PSD/FP has no intention whatsoever of losing the coming Chamber election in August/September! But if there is a serious question as to whether we will, it proves that Talossan democracy is alive and breathing.

Long live the Talossan Republic, and welcome to Year II



Miestrâ Schivâ
Seneschál dal República

"Që Cînt Schulâs Cumpulsadrent!"

Miéida. Schi si tenadra zirat à mhe ja douâ ârs - zirarë nitgal övër seifet - që dîn 2005 eu seréu el Seneschál electadâ d'iensâ República Talossân, perservînd adelmâs Prüm Citaxhiên Chirisch Cavéir, tenadréu ceðar ridar solamînt lungmînt për investigar sieu pupils për la estericaزيون acusichéu del tóxico seriös. És ischù, ja nhoi.

Noi tiennent auspicats 'n tradiziun dîn aceastâ República - që consideréu 'n bunâ - që viêns fâts për âr, sür âr Ziuâ dal Independençù (la Calondâ Gün), si regaða las poartâs d'âr Parlamînt për që toct i citaxhiêns povent entrar és parlar sieu opiniuns. Non téu participat dîn adest âr à c'hauçâ da

adsidourmáintsch frántic dîn äspectsen othreux da va vidâ. Aglhôrc, nun dîn adest editoriál prindarhéu l'escasençâ adreðar la naziun - non dîn va titreu ufiçial come sieu Seneschál, mäs come 'n citaxhiên privâts, qí escasençamînt dirixha 'n xhurnál, cunxhestînd dals pensaziuns fortúpts.

È-ça që, pirméis, seifet eshcâns isch trô grült për 'n camerâ lexhislatiù d'iensâ República da âr grülteçâ? C'è echidâ ben që hi füt cumpetaziun vrâts për eshcâns dîn la eleziun dal Camerâ - mismâ që dels candidâtsilor valentéux come Gjermund Higrapp eda Andy Lowry tiennent failat. Parç që schi cadascù els competînts seradrent dîn el governamáintsch, aglhôrc las eleziuns seradrent 'n sturnêtz. Schi âr lexhislatiur continuârha ben funziunar cûn solamînt qator Deputats cunsistentmînt actiùs, e-ça që la grülteça dal Camerâ fost estarë titicadâ à simcâ la fâts proxim? Discutar adest valoradra.

Ocsâ valoradra discutir pèrqët prescâ cadascù citaxhiên mîus-actiùs dal República tiennent votat, dîn las eleziuns és prumcitaxhiênál és lexhislatiù, për el Parti Guelph da Michael Pope. Adest "facçál sileçat" tiennent prescâ avlat embù las eleziuns dels favoris PSD/FP - àl supriçâ da toct i tzarâ, non mîus els Guelphs. 'N altreu fâts, 'n cosâ bunâ. Adest prua që democracù dîn la República isch luegñh dal farçù prainunçavál qí tent pasat come els politici electorâis dîn el Regipäts. Els dûceux povent estarë vincitats - és pût-estarë serent vincitats, la fâts proxim.

Quând zireva Mao Zedong, "që cînt schulâs cumpulsadrent", dîn Cinâ dels ârs schpéit-50, el efloramáintsch scûrznieu reieschînd füt neutraliçat rapidamînt par las praipotençâs Stalinistâns. Esperançîndmînt, noi dûceux electats és dûceâs electadâs dal República non sînt táis simuladéirs. Da c'horsicâ, el PSD/FP non tent aucûn intenziun pierthar la eleziun dal Camerâ vând dîn Guscht/Setemvár! Mäs schi ja 'n quesziun seriös övër siat noi pierthadrent, adest prua që democracù Talossân viva és respira.

Sâ vivadra la República Talossân, és beneveschti àl Àr II.

Cavéir and Schivâ - what a team!

The dual-headed Executive set up by the Constitution of the Republic has been filled by the two leaders of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) - although it was a near run thing.

In the Chamber of Deputies (parliamentary) election, the Popular Front list headed by PSD secretary Miestrâ Schivâ won 47% of the vote and three out of the available seven seats. An informal coalition was formed with the Movement for Republic Peculiarism, who won a disappointing 18% of the vote and only returned one Deputy, to make Schivâ the first *Seneschâl* (Prime Minister) of the Republic.

In the Presidential election, outgoing Dean of the Provisional Governing Council and PSD president Chirisch Cavéir won 41% of the first preference vote. Two thirds of the MRP vote - again, of 18% - swung Cavéir's way on the recount, giving him a razor-thin 53% majority.

The story of the elections was the shocking performance of founding Dean Michael Pope's Guelph Party. The Guelphs were widely derided by their opponents as a "one-man" band, with Pope being their only

consistently active citizen. But that may have been what led to their massive vote among "less active" citizens - according to one estimate, two-thirds of non-aligned voters voted Guelph in the Chamber election, rising to a massive 83% in the Presidential election.

The Guelph's low support among active citizens came back to haunt them in the Chamber election, however. The Guelphs were entitled to three seats with their 35% of the vote, but could only fill two of them. Their leader, Michael Pope, has taken up the role of Opposition Leader in the new Chamber, while PSD loyalist Marti-Páir Furxhéir has taken over as Speaker of the House (or *Túischac'h*).

Overall, turnout was outstanding for an electorate of the Republic's size. 85% of the population expressed a preference in both elections. The fact that less-active citizens participated in the election in large amounts is something to celebrate - and the reasons why they voted Guelph in large numbers is something to analyse.

MRP leader D. N. Vercáriâ offers his analysis of the Chamber elections on page 7 of this issue.



Our editorial cartoonist's take on the heads of our newly elected Government - who both happen to be musicians

WEDDING NOTICE

Qator Itrins is pleased to congratulate the President of the Republic, Chirisch Cavéir, and the Minister for Women's Affairs, Dp. Rischâ Cavéir (nascadâ Scovaglh), on the occasion of their marriage.

First Elected Government Swings Into Action

New *Seneschâl* Miestrâ Schivâ has wasted no time since her election in pulling together an activist government.

"The next, regularly-scheduled Chamber election will have to happen before September 1 this year," she told *Qator Itrins*, "and I am determined to win it. With the Guelphs breathing down our neck, the pro-government parties have to prove that we have the drive, the energy and the tenacity to deserve a full six-month term after that."

Schivâ has made good on her Popular Front campaign policies by naming a multi-party government. The incumbent independent Im-

migration Minister, Ián Anglatzarâ, has not only been retained but named *Distáin* (Deputy Prime Minister). Peculiarist Deputy D. N. Vercáriâ, who was highly critical of FP strategy and policy during the election campaign, has also been welcomed into the fold as Foreign Minister and Attorney-General.

The President of the Republic, Chirisch Cavéir will handle the portfolios of Information and Defence, while PSD Deputy and First Lady Rischâ Cavéir has taken on the new role of Minister of Women's Affairs.

The new *Seneschâl* has outlined a brisk schedule of legislative projects aimed at bringing the Popular Front manifesto

to life. A new Immigration Act, mandating secret-ballot referendums on all new citizens as well as a yearly Census, is promised - as is a National Webspac Act, taking responsibility for website content out of its current private hands and placing it in the hands of the elected Government.

The centrepiece of the big projects, however, will be the foundation of a Talossan Academy, which will take responsibility for the Republic's cultural, historical and linguistic destiny. Schivâ describes this as "the most precious of my legislative babies. Much of the recent criticism around the stagnation in the national language project is well deserved. All I can say to my critics is

that it won't happen overnight, but most assuredly it will happen."

Meanwhile, the new government's policy of a cautious opening of relations with "serious and stable" micronations has begun, with the new Foreign Minister showing commendable initiative in making diplomatic overtures to a frankly startled micronational community.

"The clock is ticking," said Schivâ. "We've got a platform to bring into action in less than three months. With a legislative blitz and a government that functions as a real team - for the first time in Talossan history - we have a good chance of succeeding."

one year of the republic - special

Our neighbours speak

In honour of the new Government's cautious opening to the micronational world, we publish two articles by foreign micronational dignitaries. These articles are presented for public interest only and their publication does not necessarily entail any approval of their contents by either Qator Itrins or the Talossan Government.

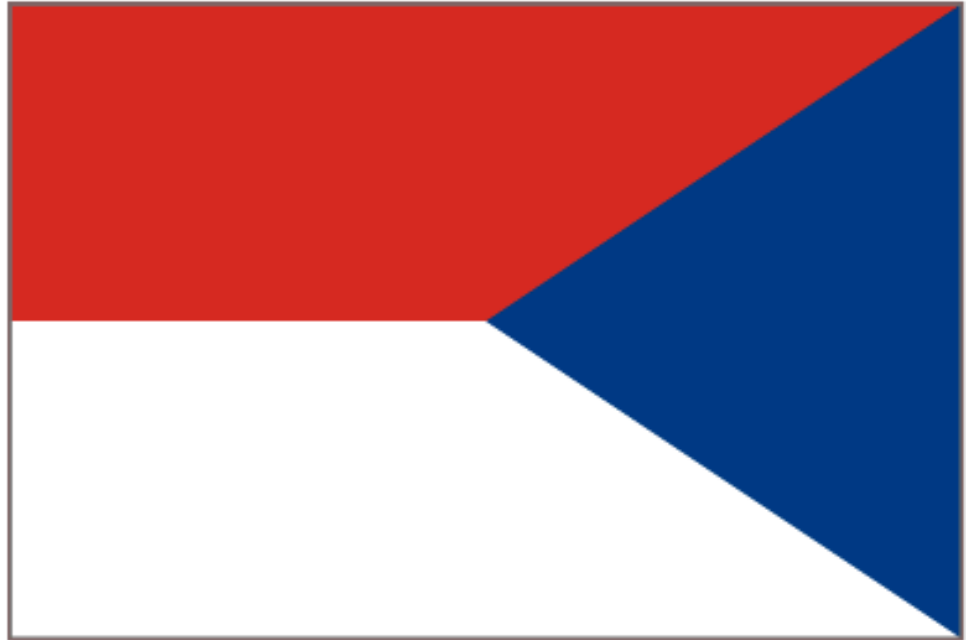
1. The Culture of Micronations

By Grand Czar Krisztian of Cyrenia -
<http://cyrenia0.tripod.com/index.html>

If you take the point of view of a non-micronationalist, micronations are babyish attempts to escape the real world and a crazy sort of game where adults play Kings and Queens. This is a typical approach favoured by the media on most of the rare occasions micronationalism gains some mention by the press, and I think I can safely say it irritates all micronationalists greatly. But if these people were to scratch beneath the surface of the hobby, then not only would they find all their assumptions were incorrect, they would also find an interesting and exciting world bubbling with culture. All micronations like to have a culture of some sort, or at least a type of underlying theme, as suggested by His Excellency Kevin Baugh, the President of Molossia, in his article 'How to start your own micronation'. In this article we will take a look at some of the most interesting of these cultures in the world.

The Sovereign Principality of Corvinia was from the beginning dedicated to its culture with a Ministry of Cultural affairs website set up, and a duo of Grand Surveys of Corvinian Culture. On the 'Canon of Corvinian Culture' webpage, whose information was drawn from the Grand Surveys, it is reported that the main cultural pursuits of citizens included drawing, writing, photography, reading and attending the cinema and theatre. Specific artists and authors being main subjects of popularity in Corvinia included J.R.R Tolkien, Mozart, Poe, and Kipling, while Sean Connery was also praised for his acting skills. Corvinia also considered the national anthem and war march to be essential components of the nation's unique Nordic culture. Interestingly enough, the state's heraldry was also thought as a vital tradition.

Another both good and popular way to make use of micronational culture is through Science and History. The Republic of Molossia is a particularly good example of this, with its respective Institute of Volcanology and Ministry of



The Cyrenian flag

Space Exploration. The nation has obviously gone to great lengths to establish its culture in this way. Molossia launched its first rocket as part of the Ministry of Space Exploration's projects in 1999, Tidal Wave, which, as commented by President Kevin Baugh, "was workhorse of our space program". It was followed by a second, Astrocara, which was designed to take aerial photographs, but however failed due to design flaws that made the aircraft nose heavy. In addition to these Molossia attempted to levitate a camera during the Hyperion balloon flight in order to yet again take aerial photos, and established a National Observatory. Also, a section of Venusian territory, Vesperia, was also claimed by Molossia for the Ministry of Space Exploration, after a crater on the planet was found with the name Lisa, after the Molossian First Lady.

The Republic of Talossa has also a diverse culture, particularly with credit to the language, and the supposed 'Berberization' of the population while it was still living under the rule of King Robert I. The Talossan language however, is truly unique, for both Talossan nations

are the only well established micro-states that have their own unique conlang. Many less well-known micronations that have conlangs were devised simply for that purpose; to be a state in which whatever is the official language. Talossan however is a brilliant language, and will continue to flourish as long as this publication continues to be partially written in it. It is just a terrible shame that the tyrant King Robert I would rather *no one* have access to the language than the Republic of Talossa have some of it.

The Empire and Grand Czardom of Cyrenia and Eastarctica has always strived to obtain a culture of sorts, and several factors contribute to the nation's success in that sense. Cyrenia started out with a basic principle; to emulate the old Imperial Russian Tsars, and that it has achieved surprisingly well. The state also has conducted a survey to try and discern the different aspects of the nation's culture, which resulted in a wide range of common music and literature tastes being revealed. Cyrenia is also home to many Historical points of Interest, in addition to a rather subdued and vague attempt to create a standard of cookery and

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food in the micronation.

The Ibrosian Protectorate's culture lies within its National Parks, the Mound and the Niweilk T'Kremponi parks. Niweilk is the oldest, and serves as a habitat for birds and to preserve the

natural beauty of the Redeke islands area. It consists of three islands, Redeke, Niweilk, and T'Kremponi, the latter however being far too small to visit. According to the park authority, the surrounding area is also a beautiful country location, with a

small hill and village. However, the nation also has many favoured artists and composers, particularly Philip Larkin, Rudyard Kipling, and Robert Burns-Including the work Robert Bruce's March to Bannockburn.

It is therefore obvious that once you poke your nose around in micronationalism a bit then a brilliant society is revealed which holds many benefits and advantages. And doing that is called becoming a micronationalist.

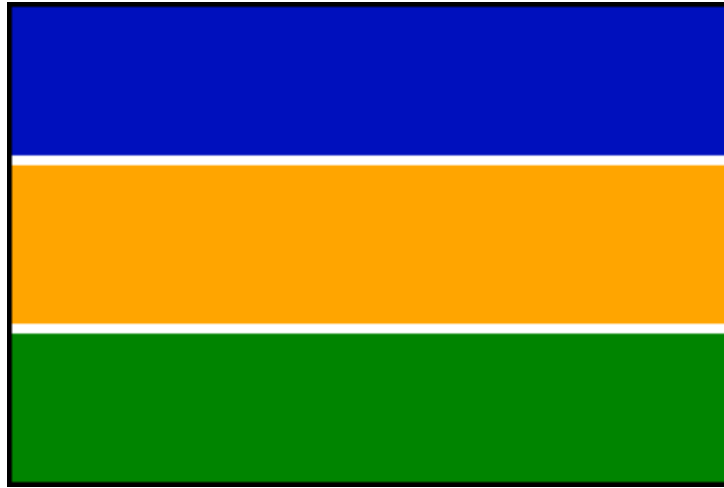
2. The Life of the Party

By Matthew Vasroixe
(Republic of Lavalon -
www.lavalonrepublic.com)

Political parties are many and all over the place in the "real world." Some parties are in politics for a broad set of ideals, and others are in it for specific issues. People have different ideas about how government should be run; when there is a democracy, the next logical step is for these ideas to represent themselves as votes. Those who share the same ideas either consciously or unconsciously vote together as a bloc.

Many medium- to large-sized micro-nations have political parties. In fact, democratic micro-nations are no less ripe for a multitude of political parties than are the macro-nations of Italy, Great Britain, or Japan. Micro-nations with multiple political parties in competition with each other, within a stable, democratic framework have more debate and discussion than micro-nations with only a single political party in control.

Some micro-nations have only one party, which basically serves as either a de facto or de jure government institution. The Socialist State of New Germany (SSNG) is an example of a de jure party institution. By definition, at least in micro-national terms, an organization must have at least two members to be considered a party. In the Republic of Lavalon there are three individuals purporting to be the chairmen of political parties that actually consist only of themselves; there, the Socialist Party exercises de facto control since it is the only real political party, having three members. Its Chairman, Bartholomew Henzelli, is



The Lavalonian flag

now calling the shots in Lavalon, even though his party does not have as members even a slight majority of total Lavalonian citizens. Mr. Henzelli is also the President of the SSNG.

Lavalon is, nevertheless, open to party building and political discourse. Another party formed to displace the Socialists in Lavalon is always a possibility. It would be easy for power to change hands, but it takes a fair amount of cooperation and settling of differences.

In a one-party or no-party state, a single leadership really controls the government. In a two-party state, two leaderships really control the government-exchanging hands from time-to-time at the whims of the voting populace. The two parties in a two-party state do sometimes exchange votes or cooperate on basis of necessity. In states with more than two parties there are multiple leaderships which bind together out of necessity to form coalitions. Even in a democratic state, if there is de facto single-party rule, decisions and appointments are not made out of cooperative necessity but out a desire

of the dominating party to maintain and extend its unilateral control over the government and foreign affairs of the state.

The Republic of Talossa is indeed moving on a healthy path by promoting a two-party system. The most active micro-nations will have greater divisions between those who feel differently about how the micro-nation should be run. This is not an unhealthy but a healthy situation. Peaceful conflict, occurring within a strong democratic framework, will (or should) always result in resolution. That is why it is important for democratic micro-nations to encourage political discourse and to provide ways for the political parties to which citizens may belong to influence policy-making decisions, even if the majority or ruling party could potentially be upstaged by another political party. Democracy should be a fair game, not something twisted or manipulated for special interests, especially those of a single party.

Some micro-nations have bypassed political parties altogether. The Empire of Antica, best known for hacking into and damaging the websites of friendly and more "se-

rious" micro-nations, has banned political parties in favor of politically-motivated discussion clubs. In Antica, real power rests in the hands of two military-like leaders known as dinarchs. Some micro-nations simply are not democratic, and were designed with the intent to be that way. Some claim to be democratic in theory, but are not in practice. Single-party states may be democratic, but corruptly. The micro-national world is filled with grand poo-bahs and kings, and none of them should be expected to become democratic; however, of those micro-nations that claim to be democratic, there should be a real democratic system, not some sham party concocted by a few key people, usually those who founded the micro-nation. New voices should be heard.

Parties must be willing to work within the democratic framework. Parties cannot call for the destruction of the democratic framework. Ultra-right and ultra-left parties should not participate in the democratic framework unless they are willing to work within it, even if they achieve majority or ruling status. Political parties should not be recognized by the government if they are dangerous in this respect. This is not being anti-democratic, but pro the democratic system. Political parties should have the right to call for the enhancement or reform of the democratic framework, constitutional or otherwise, as long as the objective of such enhancement or reform is to secure the power of a single party or coalition. It is a shame, but often the usurpation of power occurs at the ballot box—or, in our case, the electronic voting mechanism. That should not be so in a truly democratic micro-nation.

one year of the republic - special

How are we doing?

by GÖDAFRÏEU VALCÁDAC'H

A year ago today, and after months of probably as bad a tyranny any micronation has ever had to endure, eleven citizens of the Kingdom of Talossa renounced their citizenships to that kingdom and started their own micronation, the Republic of Talossa, and in the process claimed sovereignty over four Kingdom provinces. Eleven Talossans did that on 1 June 2004, and we were soon followed by another three, two of which had renounced a month-and-a-half earlier - events that gave the great ignition to the dried up and dead forest of broken Kingdom-Talossanity.

Soon after our Independence, former Talossans we never thought we would hear from again came out of the woodwork and joined us - members of what has been referred to as the Talossan Diaspora. Since that time, other former Kingdom prospectives have joined, we have begun the slow process of forming our own culture, and we have put into force our constitution.

As for our governmental institutions, the newly-ratified Constitution has assured us a solid foundation for such things for years to come. It is the product of nine months of tedious and frustrating work by the Constitutional Committee, begun by Michael Pope, but led for much of its life by the esteemed Miestrâ Schivâ. Our Parliamint, while in a temporarily-unicameral state, is fully-functional. The Presidency is being contested even as I write this article, but the Dean of the Provisional Governing Council is doing an excellent job in an "Acting President"ial role. The Provisional High Cort, in accordance with the terms laid out in the Constitution, still exists and will do so until replaced by its permanent counterpart, and that will happen once the President is elected. A Secretary of State has been confirmed (one of the last acts of the Provisional Governing Council), and is busy with his duties as is his Database Administrator who is



**Gödafrieu Valcádac'h is
Secretary of State of the
Talossan Republic.**

responsible for the electronic/computer infrastructure of the workings, both public and private, of our nationette.

Which brings up *el gghetg Talossán*... Aside from Talossans themselves, it is the chief cornerstone of Talossan culture, and it has never been in a more precarious situation. Owing to the refusal (to this point anyway) by its inventor, Robert I of the Kingdom, to allow the outside world access to language development and the quasi-incommunicado status of its second-most important advocate (for understandable and excellent Real-Life reasons), Tomas Garicier, the language is in limbo. We in the Republic wait and watch for what the Kingdom will do: there is a Third Edition of the Talossan Dictionary and Grammar in the works - will the Kingdom allow the world (and us) to see it? Making certain the language thrives is the one thing every Talossan on the face of the earth seems to agree on.

But does Robert I? He has claimed copyright over all his pres-

entations of the language, though it is pretty clear that for non-commercial purposes, a language cannot be copyrighted. It is the Great Question of Talossa's future, and if the language is split into Kingdom and Republic dialects, will either be strong-enough on its own to support its version of the language

But enough about Robert I, for he was the Tyrant from whom we escaped a year ago today. What about us?

Well, there is one situation that occurred last year that, more than anything else that has happened to us, assures me that we are doing things right in the Republic. And that is the way in which the misunderstandings over the Council for Talossan Unity (an email list that is acting as a watchdog against recriminations from Ben Madison without having to bother the rest of the country about it) were ironed out and made right. The person who had the misunderstandings came to a realization that he had been mistaken over a few things, and he owned up to that, and there were no hard feelings on either side of the issue.

This is adult behavior at its best! Something like this is what should have happened to a far greater degree in Halloween 2003 than it did (and I am talking about Robert I here, not the former Grey Congress Party). The resolution of the little scuffle over the Council for Talossan Unity was our greatest moment so far. This situation was a test, and we passed in flying colors.

There are three political parties in the Republic, and they have their own distinct identities. But they are playing clean and fair with one another, and that's the way real democracy is supposed to operate! And at the end of the day and no matter what the politics may be, inside or outside Talossa, we all are still getting along very well, thank you very much!

How are we doing?

Splendidly.

Happy First Anniversary!

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Magic numbers

by Dp. D. N. VERCÁRIÁ

The first Chamber of Deputies (CoD) elections in the still brandnew Republic of Talossa are over. They have been a success, proving one more time that the Republic of Talossa is on the winning street since the days when the Talossans overthrew the en-crusted regime of their founding father and King.

So now let's have a closer look at the results of the elections. The magic numbers are 8-6-3-1-2, summed up they make the total of 20 electors, of which 2 didn't vote. That is to say, the voter turn-out has been 90 %, which is excellent, especially if we take into account that maybe only approximately 10 Talossans are permanently involved in the daily social life on Wittenberg. Apparently a lack of participation there on the electronic fora doesn't mean that these „absentees“ don't care about Talossan politics.

Talking about these politics, it seems like the Popular Front is the winner of the CoD elections, and thus representing the political mainstream amongst the citiziens of the Republic. In other words, it may seem like the PSD (Party of Social Democrats) won the elections with a total of 8 votes. Well, of course they did; the PSD convinced all of their supporters to join the Popular Front, all seven citiziens on this list voted for themselves, plus someone who was not on the list but probably is no one less than the PSD's president and their candidate for the coming President elections, Chris Gruber. The PSD can be happy with their election result insomuch as they success-

fully persuaded their supporters to come out of the closet and to subscribe to the list of the Popular Front; but the PSD and their Popular Front didn't attract more voters, and so finally a majority of electors did not vote for the PSD/Popular Front.

One of the surprising results of the CoD elections is that the MRP came off badly. No-one but the three party members themselves voted for the Peculiarists. From an optimistic point of view I must say, that the result could have been worse; in small communities such as micronations one has to be happy if finally a party doesn't get less votes than they have members. I'm also happy to think that the elections have been about politics and party programs rather than the popularity of party members. Anyway, there's no escape from the matter of fact that apparently the party planks of the MRP have not been popular at all.

I guess, that short after the end of the so-called revolutionary era of our young Republic no-one was interested in further amendments of the constitution and electoral procedures. It didn't help that we tried to explain that said proposed amendments are meant to be long-term projects. I guess that said proposed amendments were so unwelcome that no-one even considered to vote MRP for the merits of some of their members. To some extent, as an optimist, I have to say that the latter is a good thing. One could assume that the electors in their wisdom just weighted the words that the parties uttered in regards of the future of our Republic.



D. N. Vercáriá is Foreign Minister of the Talossan Republic and leader of the Movement for Republican Peculiarism (MRP)

One could assume this, if there hadn't been this other surprising, even stunning result of the elections. Something happened that according to the PSD's own Marti-Pair Furxheir was unlikely to happen or at least should be prevented or even punished by measures of the Electoral Act: A landslide victory of a small party. Yes, this miracle happened. The small Guelph Party, for a long time belittled as a one-man-party with no program and plan, got almost all votes of those citiziens who weren't members of one of

the true or perceived favourite parties in this recent CoD campaign. All „swinger“ votes except one abstention, that is.

The funny thing about the secret ballot CoD elections is that thanks to the party/partisan list voting system and the results it's absolutely no secret who voted for whom. There are two citiziens who didn't vote at all – compare the citiziens list to the list of voters, and they're outed. Then guess who voted for the PSD/Popular Front – no problem. The supporters of the MRP

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– an open book. Guelphs: Two members, who certainly didn't vote for the „opposite camp“. There's a little uncertainty about the one who decided to abstain, but remembering all recent debates on Wittenberg one might guess who it was, too.

That leaves us with the stunning insight, that the supporters of the Guelph Party aren't a monolithic bloc, at least not regarding their various religious or other preferences. But there must be something that they have in common. Well, they have something in common: They didn't vote for those lists of candidates that were perceived as the „big“ or even the „real“ parties. There have been citizens who expressed their opinion that they don't like the idea of having parties – they possibly voted for the Guelph Party because the Guelphs didn't resemble a party for a long while. Then there possibly have been electors who voted conservative: Not for the PSD's main plank that was about making Talossa more female-friendly and more multicultural, let alone for the MRP's rallying cries for amendments of the constitution.

It's probably unfair to assume that all those who voted for the Guelphs were protesters against a perceived progressive, „politically correct“ establishment. Certainly Micheal Pope impersonates best what he called „the Guelph Difference“, which I understood as a metaphor for a Talossa that talks to the heart and soul of the citizens, a laid-back feelgood Talossa, so to speak, that shall never drown in the swamplands of constant political bickering again. Maybe I misunderstood him, but I'm sure he's the man to forgive a misunderstanding like this.

Anyway that's where we are, the magical numbers resulting of all of this are 3 – 3 – 1: 3 seats for the PSD/Popular Front, 3 seats for the Guelph Party (of which one will remain empty, thanks to the lack of registered candi-

dates), 1 seat for the MRP. Looks pretty fair, in my humble opinion, as the PSD/Popular Front failed to win an absolute majority of seats in spite of only a relative majority of votes for them, the Guelphs ran short of personnel and the MRP failed to find more supporters than they have members.

Beyond the statistics there are people. It's now up to the Members of Parlamînt to make something of the mandate that the electors have given them. Looking at the whole picture, the CoD is perfectly representing the diversity of the new Talossa. It's like Talossa in a nutshell. We've elected deputies

from three continents, women and men, American conservatives as well as people who may be considered to be on the far left of the political scale; there are genuine Anglophones and people whose first language isn't English, devoted „conlangers“ and such who are, in the words of Miestrâ Schivâ, agnostic in the issue of *el ghetg naziunâl*; there are religious and agnostic deputies as well as any variety inbetween, and it isn't a miracle any more that there are also two former Penguinians in the legislative body of Talossa.

Long live this Republic.

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ



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